

"With all thy getting get understand" "

Fact and Comment

By Malcolm S. Forbes, Editor-in-Chief

THE NEW PANAMA CANAL TREATY SHOULD BE APPROVED

and the sooner the more helpful to its purposes and intentions.

Acting like the Canal Zone is part and parcel of the U.S. is, in these days, as anachronistic as colonialism in Africa. It would be like insisting we should still own the Philippines.

The Canal can operate perfectly well without technical U.S. "ownership." Its defense—our continuing responsibility in the new treaty—won't be carried out at the Canal's literal perimeters; its security comes from the military umbrella we hold over not only the Americas but free Europe and elsewhere.

I doubt that superficial flag-waving and unwarranted emotionalism will ultimately prevail in the Senate. The Panama Canal accomplishment was an extraordinary one, an enormous U.S. achievement. That tale, magnificently told in David McCullough's current best-seller, *The Path Between the Seas*, should be a source of pride to all concerned.

This new Canal Zone treaty is in keeping with our times, far more attuned to our national principles, to American ideals. It is not a demonstration of our lack of power, but proof of it.

IS IT ANY WONDER STEEL'S ON ITS KNEES?

Ever since there was a grown-up steel industry, the surest way for a politician to prove he's For The People has been to denounce it. From both Roosevelts right through to Carter, with John Kennedy threatening to punitively sic the Internal Revenue Service on the companies and all their execs.

Even more than automobiles, oils and Con Ed, the steelers

have been jumped on to roll back prices, up wages, pay greater taxes, modernize, depollute, compete abroad and a few other hundred contradictory things all at the same time.

In the Capitol, some smart guy's going to make capital one of these days by suggesting sympathetically that the steel companies just might have a problem.

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is an abbreviation of both stock market and sadomasochism—and there are those who think they are one and the same.

THE CONTINUING CRUSADE AGAINST THE CIA AND FBI

is dangerous folly. For infinite numbers of rubles, the Comies couldn't effect the devastating destruction being wrought on these two agencies by myopic, if sometimes well-intentioned, critics.

It's one thing to make our intelligence agencies cease certain abuses of U.S. citizens' rights. But it would be asinine to shackle these Services. They provide about the only effective eyes and ears we have for keeping abreast—hopefully, ahead—of those, both here and abroad, who are intent on destroying this country.

Listen, this is a real world we are living in. If we're to survive in it, with our blessed plenty of freedom and things, we've got to know what the ideologists and nihilists—who hate us for what we are and what we have—are up to before they upend us.

The CIA and the FBI are *our* guys. They're the *other* guys' bad guys.

We'd better get our priorities straight. Under new CIA Director, Admiral Stansfield Turner and FBI designate Director Frank Johnson, I hope—and think—we will.